

House of Habsburg Explained

Habsburg was a family of dukes, kings, and monarchs. They were very important in European history and ruled **Austria, later Austria-Hungary for more than 600 years**. They also sometimes owned Spain, the Netherlands, and the Holy Roman Empire from about 1280 to 1918.

A Treaty was made in Vienna in 1515 between the king of Poland and duke of Lithuania from the Jagiellonian dynasty and the duke of Austria from the Habsburg family. It said that if the kings of Bohemia and Hungary, were to die without male heirs the Duke of Austria would take over their territory. They also ruled over the Kingdom of Sardinia.

End of the House

The House of Habsburg became extinct in the 18th century. The senior branch ended upon the death of Charles II of Spain in 1700 and was replaced by **the House of Bourbon**. The mental and physical handicaps of Charles II were probably caused by inbreeding between relatives in the royal houses of continental Europe. Marriages of close relatives occurred for five generations before him. He was the son of Philip IV, who married his sister's daughter.

The remaining branch went extinct in the male line in 1740 with the death of Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI and completely in 1780 with the death of his eldest daughter, **Maria Theresa of Austria**.

Charles II-look at his chin-genetic deformity from inbreeding!

